

DECEMBER 2005

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TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT FOR LOCAL STREETS 2006 PROGRAM APPROVED

CONCERNED ABOUT THE TRAFFIC ON your local street? The City's traffic-calming program uses traffic management techniques to try to alleviate neighborhood concerns. Two neighborhoods will be eligible for selection for the 2006 program approved by the City Council.

Applications are due Monday, February 6. For more information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Traffic calming, or call Amy Marohn at 952-563-4532.

REMODELING PLANS? DON'T MISS THE HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR



WANT to learn how to lay ceramic tile? Need tips on installing ceiling fans and light fixtures? Find out

more about the City's codes? Get the tools you need to nail down your remodeling plans at the Bloomington Home Improvement Fair on **Saturday, January 21, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Exhibitors will represent a variety of trades, from window replacements to porch additions. City staff will also be available for questions. Admission is free. For details, call the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority, 952-563-8937 or TTY 952-563-8740.

HEATING BILLS ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS WHO need assistance with paying heating bills may be eligible for help. The Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin is accepting applications for its Energy Assistance Program (EAP), a federally funded program that assists income-eligible households in Hennepin County. The EAP runs through May 31, 2006. For more information, call 952-930-3541 or visit www.capsh.org/energyassistance.htm.



WINTER FETE 2006 ONE COOL EVENT

PULL ON THE BOOTS, GLOVES AND HATS. IT'S TIME to celebrate winter in Bloomington. The fourth annual Winter Fete event will be held **Friday, January 20 - Sunday, January 22**. The kickoff event begins at 7 p.m. at Richardson Nature Center, 8737 E. Bush Lake Road, with a raptor show and stargazing program.

Throughout the weekend, enjoy a hockey exhibition featuring the Kennedy Mites vs. the Girls and Boys Varsity Teams, an Ice Harvest Festival, a Rock and Roll Skating Party and an Open House at the historic Gideon Pond House.

Are you a winter sports enthusiast? Sign up for the Cross Country Ski Race or Chilly Chili Bike Race. You can also try your hand at curling with demonstrations by the St. Paul Curling Club.

Winter Fete is a collaboration between Bloomington Parks and Recreation and the Three Rivers Parks District. For more information, call Mark Morrison at 952-563-8693 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Winter Fete.



VOTERS SELECT 2006 COUNCIL CHANGES IN AT-LARGE AND DISTRICT II SEATS

A FAMILIAR FACE AND TWO NEW representatives will make up the Bloomington City Council beginning in 2006. District I Councilmember Steve Peterson was reelected to his seat in the November General Election. Rod Axtell was elected to the District II Council seat currently held by Heather Harden and Karen Nordstrom became the newly elected Councilmember At Large representative, filling the seat currently held by Dave Abrams.



Councilmember **Steve Peterson**, an independent computer software consultant and 42-year resident, has served in District I since 2000. He said he looks forward to the Council's work in the upcoming year.

"We need to continue to make new residential places for seniors, press for mitigation of airport noise and address how to pay for street maintenance," Peterson said. "I'm also looking forward to working with residents to develop a new long-term plan for the city's future."

Peterson's service to the community also includes: member, Joint Airport Zoning Board, Statewide Public Safety Radio Board, National League of Cities Steering Committee, Sensible Land Use Coalition, and former chair, Bloomington Planning Commission.

Karen Nordstrom, a registered nurse, American Cancer Society advocate for 15 years, Bloomington Advisory Board of Health member and 2005 Health Promotion Award recipient, looks forward to continuing her commitment to community health issues.

"I would like to help Bloomington become an even better healthy, culturally vibrant community," she said.

Nordstrom, who has lived in Bloomington for 34 years, would also like to see the arts community continue to thrive. She is a Bloomington Fine Arts Council board member, a member and past president of the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, and former chair and board member of Angelica Cantanti.



Rod Axtell, a managing partner for a recruiting and consulting firm, has lived in Bloomington for 20 years. His community involvement includes president and board member of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, board member and treasurer of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce, treasurer of Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People and former coach and board member of Bloomington Athletic Association.

Axtell said it is important to keep up with the changing face of the community.

"We have tremendous assets including the airport, I-494 and I-35W in our backyard, a thriving hospitality industry, excellent parks and schools, and exceptional city government," Axtell said. "As our infrastructure and housing age, we need to leverage those assets to make sure that Bloomington remains a destination city."



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ECRWSS
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OPERATIONS EXPAND AT MSP
MINIMIZING IMPACTS OF AIRPORT NOISE ON RESIDENTS



By Mayor Gene Winstead

WHILE THE CITY RECOGNIZES THAT IT IS a great economic benefit and convenience to have the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) as our neighbor, we do not appreciate the increased noise the new runway brings to some of our residents.

As part of the airport’s \$3.1 billion expansion, a new north-south runway opened in October. Prior to its opening,

it was clear that operations of the new runway would affect some Bloomington properties that had previously experienced little or no aircraft noise. The City Council and the City of Bloomington successfully ensured that the homes most affected by noise would be acquired and operational measures would be implemented to reduce noise impacts on residents.

The City worked with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) so that, as much as possible, departing aircraft will fly over undeveloped land in the Minnesota River Valley and will reach a higher altitude before turning toward Bloomington and destinations to the west. Westbound flights departing after 10:30 p.m. will also follow a departure track along the Minnesota River. Other mitigation measures included a program to noise insulate some homes east of TH77.

In 2004, MAC made substantial changes in the sound insulation program for homes in these areas. MAC proposed that it would scale back noise mitigations in the 60 - 64 dB noise areas – installing air conditioning, with homeowners paying part of the cost. This is significantly less than the mitigation proposed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement by MAC and the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Record of Decision for the airport expansion.

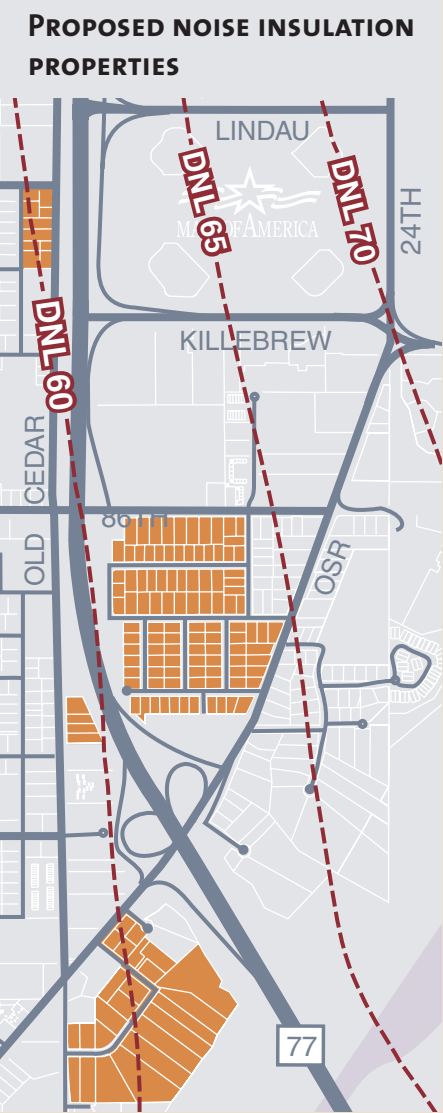
The City Council wants MAC to honor its previous commitment to sound insulate 148 Bloomington homes in the 60-64 dB noise area. The City believes that MAC is obligated to prepare a supplemental environmental

impact statement (SEIS) describing the impacts of MAC’s plan to scale back its noise mitigation. In October, the City initiated a lawsuit against MAC after it rejected a request to prepare an SEIS.

The City’s legal advisors believe that state law requires MAC to prepare a SEIS. The City also maintains that changes in MAC’s noise mitigation program will subject homeowners in the 60-64 dB noise corridor to significant adverse impacts. A study conducted this year in Richfield, Minneapolis and Eagan found that 38.5 percent of people living in areas exposed to 60-64 dB noise levels are “highly annoyed” by the noise, well exceeding the FAA’s own definition of significant adverse impact.

The City Council has worked diligently to communicate the new runway’s impact to residents through the *Bloomington Briefing*, the City Web site and correspondence from MAC. The City also worked with MAC to ensure that the new runway operations could be monitored. Residents can go online to get a detailed report of flight and noise operations at MSP, as well as file a complaint with MAC directly, which is more effective than calling the City. We will continue to advocate the protection of Bloomington’s environment by seeking insulation for homes in the 60 - 64 dB area, pressing the FAA to confine aircraft within defined departure corridors and supporting use of quieter Stage 3 aircraft.

For more information, please call MAC’s Noise Complaint and Information Line at 612-726-9411 or visit www.macnoise.com.



The properties highlighted in orange are within the 60 - 64 dB range. The City seeks to have MAC noise insulate them.

BLOOMINGTON IS A GREAT PLACE TO WORK
TOP 10 COMPANIES RANKED BY REVENUE

RANK	COMPANY	ANNUAL REVENUES <i>In millions</i>	EMPLOYEES*
1	HealthPartners, Inc.	\$3,506.0	2,138
2	Toro Company	1,399.3	977
3	Donaldson Company, Inc.	1,218.3	1,069
4	Ceridian Corporation	1,192.7	429
5	Schwans Consumer North America	1,042.6	140
6	Holiday Stationstores, Inc.	1,000.0	60
7	Holiday Companies	932.6	100
8	GMAC - RFC	791.4	800
9	Apogee Enterprises, Inc.	771.8	35
10	Jostens, Inc.	756.0	239

Information is based on 2004 data compiled by Dun and Bradstreet.
*Employment numbers reflect those based in the Bloomington offices.



The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us.
Web site: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us
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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS
AS OF JANUARY 3, 2006:

Councilmember At Large
Karen Nordstrom 952-831-5221
Councilmember District II
Rod Axtell 952-832-5377

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The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone: 952-563-8733; TTY 952-563-8740.



A HEALTHY BEACH

EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT LOWERS BACTERIA

“BEACH CLOSED” IS A SIGN NEITHER THE public nor the City wants to see. Weather, water temperature and bird presence can cause bacteria levels at Bush Lake Beach to rise. If bacteria levels are high enough, the beach is closed to protect the public.

Based on research from Lake Michigan beaches that showed how sand harbors *E. coli* and may be a source for bacteria in the water, the City began an innovative, experimental treatment.

“We collected sand and water samples and found bacteria counts were

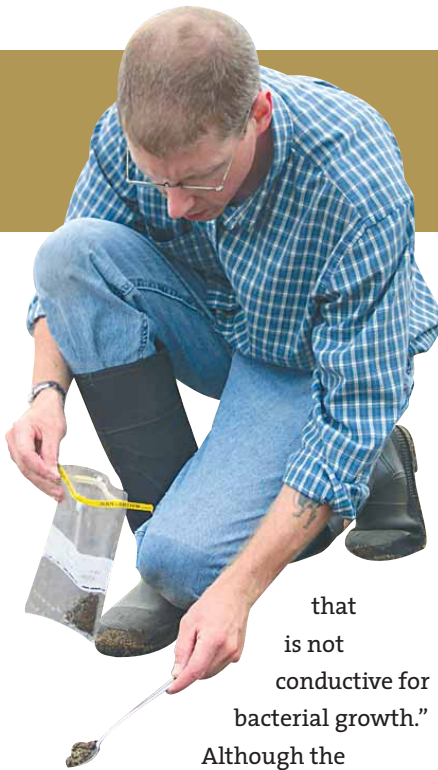
highest where gulls were present,” Environmental Health Program Coordinator Jeff Luedeman said. “We thought that by treating the sand, we could improve water quality.”

In July and August, with guidance from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, City staff applied a diluted chlorine bleach solution onto the beach sand in a 12-foot swath from the water’s edge.

“We are not aware that anyone else in the metro area is doing this very unique procedure,” Park Maintenance Manager Paul Edwardson said. “The beauty of it is that we are using an inexpensive chlorine solution, equipment we already have and limited staff time.”

The results of the treatments look promising. *See graph.* Compared to the last few years, water quality improved, bacteria counts were lower and the beach was not closed in 2005 due to high bacteria levels.

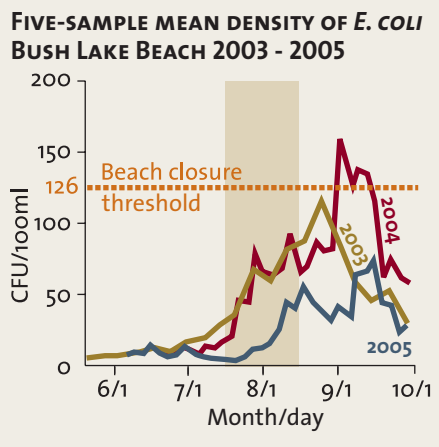
“When large numbers of *E. coli* are present in the water, conditions are ripe for other harmful pathogens to grow,” Water Quality Supervisor Jon Eaton said. “The idea is to create an environment



that is not conducive for bacterial growth.” Although the

experimental treatments may help keep bacteria levels low, one of the biggest risks of waterborne illness is from other beach users. The City will continue to educate the public on proper hygiene and other health practices that can help maintain a healthy beach environment. Park Maintenance also continues to work with the University of Minnesota to control the goose and gull population at the beach.

For information, call Environmental Health Program Coordinator Jeff Luedeman at 952-563-8977.



Treating beach sand may be effective in limiting bacteria. Treatments occurred between July 13 and August 24.

REDEVELOPMENT AT I-494 AND FRANCE AVENUE

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT PROPOSED FOR UNDERUSED SITE

AN UNDERUSED PARCEL OF LAND ALONG Bloomington’s most prominent commercial corridor may soon reach its development potential. If approved, a new full-service hotel and restaurant could be built on the 3.7-acre site located at I-494 and France Avenue.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), owner of the parcel since the 1950s, has used the site primarily for salt, sand and vehicle storage. MnDOT moved their maintenance operations near Highway 77 and no longer uses the site.

Bloomington Community Development Director Larry Lee said because of state restrictions on selling the property to a developer, the City will act as an agent in marketing the parcel at MnDOT’s request. After evaluating several proposals, the City Council directed staff to negotiate purchase of the property and to pursue

a purchase agreement with M.A. Mortenson Company.

“The project is beneficial to both MnDOT, who wants to recover the economic value of the property, and to the City, who has an opportunity to expand its tax base,” Lee said.

Proposed for the site is a 240-room hotel with 7,300 square feet of banquet and meeting space. Granite City, a full-service restaurant and brewpub, is included in the plans. The estimated assessed market value of the project will be \$16.8 million.

“The project turns an unused site into something more beneficial to the city,” Bloomington Port Authority Development Manager Jill Hutmacher said. “In addition to the private market investment in the community, the redevelopment will provide jobs and increase tax revenues.”

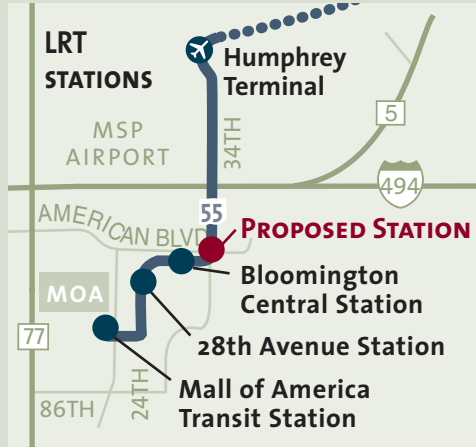


Pending City Council approval of the purchase agreements and development plans, construction could begin in April 2006 with a completion date scheduled for May 2007. For more information, call Becky Schindler at 952-563-8927.

ADDITIONAL LRT STATION PROPOSED

CITY AND METRO TRANSIT SEEK FEDERAL FUNDS

BLOOMINGTON’S AIRPORT SOUTH District is one of the fastest-growing development areas in the region. McGough’s \$700 million Bloomington Central Station project and the Mall of America’s second phase are two significant projects underway. To encourage further higher-density, mixed-use growth in this important development district, an additional light-rail station and more park-and-ride spaces are being proposed.



The proposal, submitted jointly by the City of Bloomington and Metro Transit, would add an additional light-rail station at 34th Avenue and American Boulevard if federal transportation dollars are approved. The proposal also requests that a new 1,500-space parking structure be built at the heavily used park-and-ride lot at the 28th Avenue LRT Station. The site currently has 550 parking spaces that are full during the week.

Original plans of the Hiawatha Line included the 34th Avenue Station, but the plan was modified when a light-rail realignment put a station directly at the Mall of America. Because preliminary work was done during initial construction of the line, a new station could be added without interrupting service.

According to Bloomington Assistant City Manager Clark Arneson, adding the 34th Avenue Station will drive higher-density development in the area that includes housing, retail, hotels and other amenities.

Well underway is McGough’s Reflections, a 267-unit condominium project. Bloomington Central light-rail station is the focal point of McGough’s 43-acre project whose next phases include a 150-unit condominium and townhome complex, a 350-room hotel and 1.75-acre central park that could begin construction in 2006.

“One of the City’s long-range development goals is to create a transit-oriented development district in Airport South,” Arneson said. “In addition to renewing the area, this type of development will keep traffic off the roadways and encourage people to use public transportation.”

Light-rail ridership continues to increase and is exceeding projections by more than 65 percent. An estimated 742,000 riders used the line in October.

ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

MAINTAINING AND RENEWING A 21ST CENTURY CITY

THE CITY’S CURRENT ZONING ORDINANCE, largely written in the 1950s, has been amended, but never comprehensively updated. Several standards and use restrictions in the current code reflect the needs and vision of building a 1950s Bloomington rather than maintaining and renewing a city of the 21st century.

To update and improve its zoning ordinance and related City Code

provisions, the City of Bloomington is undergoing a multiyear effort that is guided by growth, housing, transportation, community vitality and customer service.

Several updates have already been approved by the City Council including landscaping and screening standards, home-based business standards, a new transit-oriented, mixed-use district near

Bloomington’s LRT stations and new runway-related zoning districts. The City is currently working on new standards for neighborhood commercial areas and updating parking standards and aircraft noise insulation requirements.

For more information visit the City’s website, keywords: Zoning ordinance update.

At Your Service

Programs for You

CREEKSIDЕ COMMUNITY CENTER IS located at 9801 Penn Ave. S. For more information on programs, activities and services, call Human Services at 952-563-4873; TTY 952-563-4957.

GET TO KNOW US

RECEIVE THE LATEST INFORMATION ON programs, activities and opportunities for seniors at the “Get Acquainted with Creekside” meetings held on **Wednesdays, January 4 and February 1, 10 - 11 a.m.**

AARP’s DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASSES

MINNESOTA LAW MANDATES A 10 percent reduction in car insurance premiums for persons 55 and older who complete a defensive driving course. Classes are offered monthly. Cost is \$10. To register, call Human Services.

CONNECT TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

BLOOMINGTON FAMILINK PROVIDES information related to housing, financial assistance, health insurance, legal services, childcare and food resources for people who live, work or attend school in Bloomington. For more information or to request a resource catalog, call V/TTY 952-563-4957 or visit Creekside. Hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY BAKING NEEDS



THE CREEKSIDЕ BUYER’S CLUB CARRIES nuts, dried fruits, coconut, granola, oatmeal, bran, wild rice, honey, pure maple syrup and more. Hours are Thursdays, 9 - 11:15 a.m. and 12:45 - 1:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY TEA AND STORYTIME

INVITE YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, friends and neighbors to the annual Holiday Tea and Storytime on **Thursday, December 22, 9:30 a.m.**, at Creekside. This free program is sponsored by Human Services and Friends of the Oxboro Library. To register, call 952-563-4873.

CREEKSIDЕ BOUTIQUE

THE BOUTIQUE OFFERS SPECIAL, ONE-OF-a-kind gifts including hand-crocheted and knitted items, quilts and afghans, dolls, doll clothes and furniture, and holiday decorations and ornaments. Holiday hours are Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Tuesdays, 6 - 8 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Around Bloomington

Police Score Points with Youth Annual Hockey Event a Success



THE METRO ENFORCERS, A GROUP OF metropolitan-area police officers and federal agents, battled the Bloomington Summer Youth Hockey Program at the second annual Cops and Kids Hockey Game held at the Bloomington Ice Garden in August.

The “Kids” came out strong in a tough game that ended in a 5-5 tie. But the “Cops” found some much-needed energy and luck, and put two more goals home to win 7-5 in overtime.

Bloomington Police Department’s Christy Funk Anderson and Officer Jerry Wukawitz came up with the idea of a hockey game as a way to bring police officers and kids together in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

“The event allows Police to have a positive, proactive contact with youth,” Anderson said. “It’s the last game of the kids’ summer program, so it is something they look forward to and a fun way to end the season.”

The Summer Youth Hockey Program began in 2001 as a way to keep the Bloomington Athletic Association recreational skaters, ages 12 - 16, on the ice throughout the summer months. Skaters work on skill development and hold scrimmages every week.

For more information on the Cops and Kids Program, call Bloomington Police at 952-563-4900.

Excellent Community for Youth

Bloomington Named One of Minnesota’s Best



BLOOMINGTON WAS NAMED ONE OF Minnesota’s Best Communities for Young People by the Minnesota Alliance with Youth. The designation is the local version of a national search for the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America’s Promise. Lieutenant Governor Carol Molnau recognized Bloomington, along with six other Minnesota cities, at the State Fair in August. Human Services, the Bloomington School District and Bloomington United for Youth worked together to complete the application that is used for both state and national competitions. For more information, call Kerry Stone at 952-563-8737.

Serve Your Community Opportunities Available

THE CITY COUNCIL IS SEEKING APPLICANTS to serve on the following advisory boards and commissions for terms beginning January 2006: Advisory Board of Health; Board of Appeal; Human Rights Commission; Merit Board; Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission; Planning Commission; and Traffic and Transportation Advisory Commission. Youth positions are available on the Human Rights Commission and Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission.

For more information or an application, call the City Manager’s Office at 952-563-8785. Download an application at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Boards and Commissions. Applications must be received by **Thursday, December 15**, for consideration at the Council’s organizational meeting in January.

Remembering James King

Bloomington Mayor 1970 - 1974

JAMES KING, BLOOMINGTON MAYOR FROM 1970 - 1974, passed away in October. King’s service to Bloomington included two terms as Mayor and six years on the Planning Commission, where he served four years as chairman. He is credited with a number of accomplishments during a period of explosive growth for

Bloomington, that included helping to attract Normandale Community College. King was also instrumental in efforts to preserve 5,000 acres of parkland in the city. King owned James King and Associates Insurance Agency and other businesses.

Bloomington Yesterday

Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA) – 1956



Bloomington Athletic Association

BLOOMINGTON EXPERIENCED A population explosion in the 1950s, growing from less than 10,000 people in 1950 to 52,000 by the end of the decade. Services sprung up to accommodate the population boom. The Bloomington Athletic Association was launched in 1954 after 50 boys showed up for a traveling team tryout for the Bloomington Legion.

“Right then and there, we had to break it down to 15 kids. That’s all we

could have on the squad,” said BAA founder Arnie Johnson years later. “As I made the cut, I could see various kids with tears in their eyes and I thought to myself, ‘this isn’t what I want.’” Created with the philosophy that “everybody plays,” BAA grew into the largest volunteer youth sports organization in the country.

Pictured here is a BAA baseball game at the old American Legion Field in 1956.

Think It’s a Rite of Passage?



MOST (89 PERCENT) BLOOMINGTON ninth graders reported they haven’t used marijuana in the last 30 days.

TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT NOT USING DRUGS. THEY’RE LISTENING.



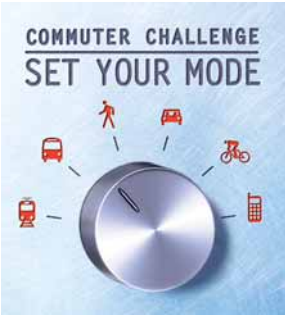
*2004 Minnesota Student Survey

IS FILLING YOUR GAS TANK EMPTYING YOUR WALLET?
TRY SOME COMMUTING ALTERNATIVES

LEAVING YOUR CAR AT HOME – EVEN A FEW days a week – can save money and reduce stress. Options and resources available from 494 Commuter Services include:

- **Bike.** Get a workout on the way to work. Request a free Hennepin County bicycle trail map with bicycle commuting tips.
- **Take the bus.** A personalized itinerary shows you how to get from home to work with bus schedules and free bus passes.

- **Ride the train.** For LRT routes and schedules, visit www.metrotransit.org.
 - **Carpool.** Thousands of business professionals in the metropolitan area are looking for a carpool partner to split the cost of gas and reduce vehicle wear and tear. A free ride-match list of people who have a similar schedule and live or work near you is available.
- For more information, visit www.494corridor.org or call 952-848-4947.



GREAT JOB, BLOOMINGTON EMPLOYEES AND BUSINESSES
COMMUTER CHALLENGE RESULTS

Whether they carpooled, rode the bus or train, bicycled or walked to work, 600 Bloomington commuters pledged to try an alternative to driving alone during the 2005 Commuter Challenge. Of the more than 4,000 individuals who participated in the challenge, more than half work near the I-494 corridor. Based on Bloomington employee pledges alone, the Commuter Challenge led to a decrease of more than 75,000 miles of travel. Great job, residents, workers and businesses!



BUCKTHORN ACROSS BORDERS
COMMUNITY TACKLES INVASIVE SPECIES

MORE THAN 200 VOLUNTEERS HIT THE trails to help rid three sites along the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge of buckthorn in October. The City of Bloomington, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Minnesota Valley and the Department of Natural Resources hosted the 2005 Buckthorn Across Borders event.

About 35 volunteers tackled the invasive plant at Parker’s Picnic area near Park Avenue and Columbus Road. Fifteen one-ton truckloads of buckthorn

were hauled from the site. Bloomington Park Maintenance Manager Paul Edwardson said volunteers maximize the community’s resources and are key to undertaking these types of projects.

“You can’t measure in dollars and cents the value of people getting out and helping with concerns like these,” Edwardson said. “So much can be accomplished.”

HOLIDAY TIPS
’TIS THE SEASON TO
REDUCE, REUSE AND
RECYCLE

- THE HOLIDAYS OFFER MANY opportunities for recycling and resource conservation. Try these tips that can also preserve the resources in your pocketbook.
- GIFT IDEAS**
- Use a canvas bag when shopping.
 - Share homemade presents, including baked goods, jams or crafts.
 - Give tickets to entertainment and cultural events or passes for public transportation.
 - Make your own holiday cards using old cards.



- WRAPPING GIFTS**
- Wrap gifts in backpacks, fabric hatboxes, maps, newspaper, scarves or cloth napkins.
 - Make gift tags from old cards or decorate cardboard.
 - When shipping gifts, pack boxes with newspaper or scrap paper.
- Source: City of Millbrae, California

EARTH ACTION HERO
THE NO-WASTE WARRIOR

Earth Action Heroes protect the planet. Whether it’s saving energy or guarding Bloomington’s precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...

WHEN THE RECYCLING TRUCKS COME BY George Fisher’s Bloomington home, they don’t find much to pick up at the curb. Rarely are newspapers, cans or glass bottles in Fisher’s recycling bin because he doesn’t create waste, or the need to recycle, in the first place.

Fisher carefully chooses what he consumes. He eliminates unnecessary

packaging by buying grocery items in bulk and drinking tap water instead of purchasing individual plastic bottles.

“There is very little I buy in metal cans, or plastic or glass bottles and jars,” Fisher said. “I make soup from dry-packaged beans and buy spaghetti in clear plastic wrappers.”

Newspapers don’t pile up at his home because Fisher doesn’t subscribe to them; he reads them online.

“The magazines I receive, I save for future reference or bring to work to share with co-workers once I have read them,” Fisher said.

Fisher also reuses what he can. Glass jars that once held spaghetti sauce are the perfect size to hold the juice from fresh fruits and vegetables that he extracts from his juicer. All junk mail is shredded and used as packaging for shipping the electronic and ham

radio equipment he sells; he never buys shipping boxes, but reuses the boxes that have been mailed to him.

Recycling is important, but waste prevention is an even better practice because creating less waste uses fewer resources. Fisher adopted his minimalist lifestyle in 1978 while living in California and continues the practice in Minnesota.

“I loved the big redwood trees and the ocean,” Fisher said. “It made so much sense to me to do what I could to conserve and protect the environment.”



- WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT WASTE?**
- The first step is to think about what you buy, the type of packaging it is in and what your alternatives may be. Do you have items that could be reused instead of purchased new? Fisher suggests taking that first step to prevent waste and then add another step each year.
- “One person can make a difference,” Fisher said. “Don’t feel guilty – just do what you can. If everyone did one thing, there would be a huge effect.”



George Fisher’s recycling bin is almost empty on pick-up day.

CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE A HISTORIC GATHERING

Where: Gideon H. Pond House,
Pond-Dakota
Mission Park,
401 E. 104th St.
When: Sunday, December 18.
Time: 1 - 4 p.m.
Cost: Free.

GET IN A FESTIVE MOOD WITH A TOUCH of Bloomington's history. Enjoy a historic house, listen to holiday organ music and sip refreshments.

A NIGHT OF MUSIC HURRICANE RELIEF BENEFIT

JAGCORPS, A SERVICE AND LEARNING class at Jefferson High School, is partnering with schools across the Lake Conference to hold a band concert to benefit hurricane relief. The concert will be held on **Saturday, January 7**, at the **Jefferson High School Auditorium, 4001 W. 102nd St.** Non-perishable food items will be collected. For more information or tickets, call Tim Anderson at 952-806-7810 or e-mail tanders1@bloomington.mn.us.

BLOOMINGTON LOVES ITS KIDS CELEBRATION



THIS MONTH-LONG CELEBRATION OF Bloomington's youth combines community and family fun with educational programs and ceremonies to honor organizations who help kids and kids who help others. Parks and Recreation, Bloomington Public Schools and community groups call upon residents to participate.

KICK-OFF

When: Tuesday, January 31
6:30 p.m.
Where: Knott's Camp Snoopy,
Mall of America.

The **Recognition Ceremony** honors those who have done something special to benefit our community – youth, youth groups, and volunteer organizations that serve youth.

COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

When: Saturday, February 25
12:30 - 3 p.m.
Where: Northwestern Health
Sciences University,
84th and Penn Ave.

The event includes entertainment, exhibits, multi-cultural event, preschool play area and much more!

To become a sponsor of Bloomington Loves Its Kids, call Randi Wallenberg at 952-563-8877.

WINTER ACTIVITIES HEAT UP THE COLD AIR

YOUTH SPORTS

FOR FUN, YOUTH WINTER SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES CALL the Bloomington Athletic Association's Information Hotline at 952-888-0807 or visit www.BAAonline.org.

THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT HYLAND LAKE PARK RESERVE IS THE PLACE TO BE

WHEN THE WEATHER TURNS COLD, EVENTS HEAT UP AT HYLAND Lake Park Reserve, 8737 E. Bush Lake Road. Hyland offers more than 10K of groomed cross country ski trails, a two-mile snowshoe trail, and a ski and snowboard area. Or, if you prefer to play indoors, visit Richardson Nature Center for fun programs and live animals. For reservations or more information, call 763-559-6700.



fire at **Winter Survival** on **Sunday, January 29, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, at Richardson Nature Center. Must be age 8 or older.

Ice fishing, snowshoeing, sledding and more are offered during two chilly, fun-packed days at **Big Time Fun in the Winter Sun** camp, **9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Wednesday - Thursday, December 28 - 29**, at Richardson Nature Center. Cost is \$90.

ADULT SPORTS

TENNIS DRILLS

INSTRUCTED BY A CERTIFIED TEACHING PROFESSIONAL, DRILLS ARE PRACTICE SESSIONS to improve stroke production. Facilities include locker rooms, showers, sauna, whirlpool, steam room, swimming pool, indoor track and exercise room.

Times: *Beginner* 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Intermediate 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Where: 98th St. Northwest Athletic Club, 1001 W. 98th St.
Cost: \$60 for six one-hour lessons.
Limit: Six per class; minimum of four.
Register: Call Parks and Recreation.

DAYTIME VOLLEYBALL

ALL GAMES ARE PLAYED AT THE BLOOMINGTON ARMORY, 3300 W. 98TH ST. Feel free to show up alone; teams are formed on the spot each week.

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning January 3.
Times: *Beginner* 9 - 11 a.m.
Intermediate 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cost: \$1.50 each session.

GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS

GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS ARE located in three middle schools: Oak Grove, 1300 W. 106th St.; Olson, 4551 W. 102nd St.; and Valley View, 8900 Portland Ave. The centers provide a safe, nurturing environment for youth, grades 6 to 8. Activities include Culture Club, Arts and Crafts, Youth Power, Homework Club and service learning projects. Hours are Monday - Friday from 2:20 - 5 p.m. at Oak Grove and Olson, and from 2:20 - 6 p.m. at Valley View. For more information, call Suzanne at 952-681-6124. Galaxy is a partnership between Bloomington Public Schools and the City of Bloomington.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help kids with homework and academic-enrichment activities after school between 2:30 and 5 p.m. For information, call 952-681-6120.



AR&LE

THE ADAPTIVE RECREATION & Learning Exchange (AR&LE) provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in recreational, social and educational programs. These opportunities are for people with varying ability levels in specially designed programs that meet their needs. For a quarterly brochure of activities, call Parks and Recreation.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our volunteers have a great time – you could, too! Just a few hours can make a world of difference. For more information, call Janet at 952-681-6121.

LOOK AHEAD

PLAN YOUR EVENT PICNIC SHELTERS AVAILABLE FOR RENT



PICNIC SHELTERS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE to rent for next year's picnics, receptions, reunions or meetings. Registration begins January 3 for use April through mid-October. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. In addition, City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, walking trails and softball fields. Reduced rates are available for non-profit Bloomington youth groups.

PROPOSED* RENTAL RATES

MOIR PARK

104th St. at Morgan Ave.
Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+.
\$185 + tax.
Shelter 2: Accommodates 50.
\$127 + tax.

WEST BUSH LAKE PARK

94th St. at West Bush Lake Rd.
Shelter 1: Accommodates 240.
\$185 + tax.
Shelter 2: Accommodates 150.
\$127 + tax.

EAST BUSH LAKE PARK

9140 East Bush Lake Rd.
Shelter 3: Accommodates 200.
\$245 + tax.

SMITH PARK

8155 Park Ave. S.
Shelter: Accommodates 30.
\$80 + tax.

*Subject to City Council approval, December 2005.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH STREET AND Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City’s Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Calendar.

EXHIBITIONS

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER

952-563-8587

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY



Swans Swimming by Steve Hemingway.

Mississippi River by Mary Lingen.



Kaleidoscope, featuring Steve Hemingway and Mary Lingen, runs through December 23.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Linear Expressions, featuring artists Marcia McEachron and Polly Norman, runs January 6 - February 10. Opening reception is Friday, January 6, 6 - 8 p.m.



Ying and Yang by Polly Norman.

ATRIUM GALLERY, SECOND FLOOR

home-grown invasion by artist Liz Miller runs through December 23.
Frozen in Light: Photographs by Glenn Grafelman runs January 6 - February 24. Opening reception is Friday, January 6, 6 - 8 p.m.

BLACK BOX THEATER

GALLERY THEATER COMPANY

Joe and Fibber Find Christmas (on the Lawn and in a Wagon) is another classic Fibber McGee and Molly episode. Performances are December 8 - 18, Thursdays - Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., and Sundays, 2 p.m. The December 16 performance is American Sign Language interpreted. Tickets are \$8. For reservations, call 952-563-8587.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

CONTINENTAL BALLET

The Nutcracker ballet will be performed on Thursdays, December 8 - 15, Fridays, December 9 - 16, and Saturday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., and Saturday - Sunday, December 10 - 11, 3 p.m. Tickets are \$18 adults; \$15 senior citizens and students, \$8 children under age 13. For reservations, call 952-563-8562.

BLUEGRASS CONCERT

Jack Norton and the Mullet River Boys, and the Blue Drifters will perform on Saturday, December 17, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 adults; \$12 seniors; children under 12 free admission. For tickets, call 952-563-8575.

BLOOMINGTON CHORALE

Handel’s Messiah, with guest soloists Carolyn Pratt, Susan Druck, Paul Kling and Dave Benson, will be performed on Sunday, December 18, 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 adults; \$7 senior citizens and students, age 65 and older. For tickets, call 952-563-8575.



JAZZ CONCERT

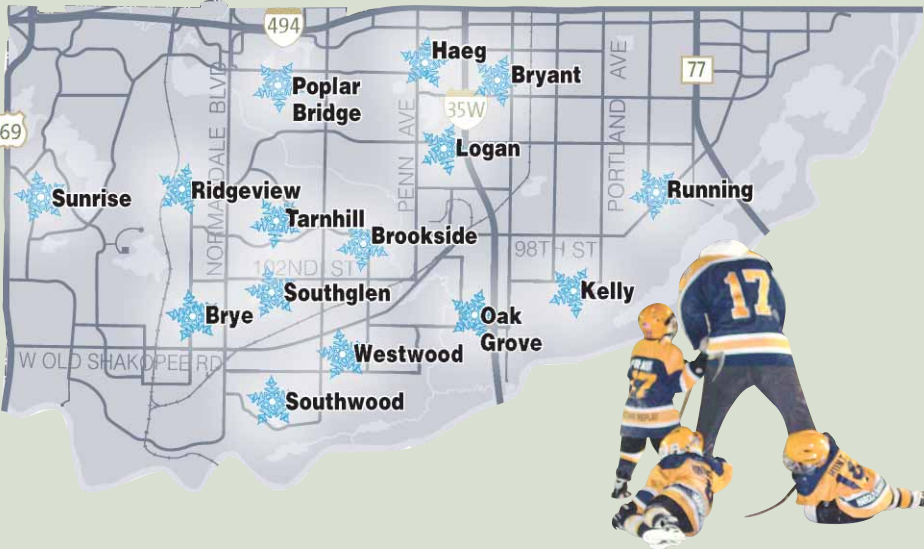
BingSongs, featuring the music of Bing Crosby, stars Arne Fogel, Maud Hixson, Prudence Johnson and The Wolverines Trio, is part of the Twin Cities Jazz Society’s (TCJS) “Jazz from J to Z” series. Performance is Sunday, January 8, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 adults; \$17 seniors/TCJS members. For more information, call 952-563-8575.



Jesus Christ Superstar performances are February 3 - 26. Tickets are \$24. For more information, call 952-563-8575 or visit www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org.

2005 - 2006 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS

PARKS AND RECREATION WILL OPERATE 15 OUTDOOR ICE SKATING SITES THIS WINTER. Facilities include a lighted general skating rink, a hockey rink and a heated park shelter for changing skates and warming up. Each site is supervised by a Parks and Recreation employee during public skating hours. Weather permitting, park shelters will be open Wednesday, December 21, 2005, through Sunday, February 12, 2006.*



LOCATIONS AND FEATURES

PARK	ADDRESS	PHONE	RINK			SHELTER	
			General	Hockey	Floodlights	Temporary	Permanent
Brookside	10000 Xerxes Ave. S.	952-835-6752	•	•	•		•
Bryant	1001 W. 85th St.	952-884-5457	•	•	•		•
Brye	10500 Xavier Ave. S.	952-888-1834	•	•	•		•
Haeg	8301 Penn Ave. S.		•	•	•	•	
Kelly	185 E. 102nd St.	952-881-9691	•	•	•		•
Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th St.		•	•	•	•	
Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th St.	952-831-1584	•	•	•		•
Running	9501 12th Ave. S.	952-881-9641	•	2	•		•
Southglen	10701 Rich Road		•	•	•		
Southwood	4800 Terracewood Dr.		•	•	•	•	
Sunrise	9401 Blmgtn. Ferry Rd.	952-829-1685	•	•	•		•
Westwood	3490 W. 109th St.	952-884-5519	•	2	•		•

▲ Temporary shelters are heated, with unheated “satellite” restrooms and no running water.

Logan, Ridgeview and Tarnhill have general skating rinks for day use only.

*RINK SHELTER HOURS

DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR January 3 - February 12, 2006	HOLIDAY December 21, 2005 - January 2, 2006 January 16, 2006
	Parks: Running, Westwood	
M - F	4 - 9 p.m.	1 - 9 p.m.
Sa	11 a.m - 9 p.m.	11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Su	1 - 9 p.m.	1 - 9 p.m.
DAY OF WEEK	Parks: Brookside, Bryant, Brye, Haeg, Kelly, Oak Grove, Poplar Bridge, Southglen, Southwood, Sunrise	
	M - F	4 - 8 p.m.
Sa	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su	1 - 5 p.m.	1 - 5 p.m.
December 24, 2005	All park shelters closed.	
December 25, 2005	All park shelters closed.	
December 31, 2005	All shelters open, 1 - 5 p.m.	
January 1, 2006	Shelters open, 1 - 5 p.m., at Poplar Bridge, Running, Sunrise and Westwood.	
January 17, 2006	All shelters open, holiday hours.	

BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN INDOOR SKATING RINKS

The Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG), 3600 W. 98th St., has three indoor rinks available for public skating and adult open hockey. Professionally trained instructors offer skating lessons for children and adults. For more information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: BIG or call 952-563-8842.

ADVANCES IN SNOWPLOWING IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY CREATES SAFER STREETS



MOTORISTS’ SAFETY AND MOBILITY ARE THE primary concerns of Street Maintenance crews as they gear up to battle the sleet, snow and ice that make driving hazardous. This winter, with the help of the latest technology, crews may be able to stay one step ahead of Mother Nature.

Using a new salt brine production system, the City’s snow removal process begins before the snow falls. Prior to a predicted snowstorm, the brine, a salt and water solution, is sprayed on the roads to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement.

“The brine works with the wheel movement of traffic to break up and melt the snow and ice as it hits the pavement,” said Bloomington Maintenance Superintendent Larry Tschida. “This method reduces initial plowing time and the need for our crews to re-plow, making the roads safer for the traveling public.”

A new computer system in the truck’s cab allows crews to more efficiently regulate how much brine is applied.

“Only the amount that is needed is used, which is not only less expensive, but better for the environment,” said snowplow operator Chris Franke. “The new system is also safer, because with a push of a button you can regulate where the brine solution is sprayed; you don’t have to move into another lane to apply it.”



The Minnesota Department of Transportation, as well as many other cities in the state and around the country, uses the brine solution method. A City of Bloomington truck was outfitted with the new equipment to begin a transition toward the program. The brine will be applied to American Boulevard and along portions of Lyndale Avenue this winter. The City will monitor its effectiveness before expanding the treatments to other major arterials. For more information, call 952-563-8760.

SPRUCE UP YOUR DWELLING HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS AVAILABLE



To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must have sufficient equity in your home to cover the amount of the loan. *Income guidelines apply. See table.*

- Eligible repairs**
- Replacement of roofs, electrical and plumbing systems.
 - Gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia.
 - Exterior painting.
 - Foundation, sidewalk or steps.
- Ineligible repairs**
- Decorating.
 - Additions.
 - Finishing of basements.
 - Remodeling.
 - Garage constructions.

THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AND Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is now accepting applications for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Loans of up to \$30,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at a simple 5 percent per year rule for the first 10 years based on the original loan amount.

A lead risk assessment is required for all homes built before 1978.

Loans are offered to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods. Applications are ranked and processed according to need.

INCOME GUIDELINES	
Persons in household*	Maximum gross income**
1	\$40,600
2	\$46,400
3	\$52,200
4	\$58,000
5	\$62,650
6	\$67,300
7	\$71,900
8 or more	\$76,500
* Includes all residents of household, related and unrelated, including renters.	
** Subject to change.	

Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, until Friday, March 10. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937.

COMMUNITY LEADER CORAL HOULE SELECTED AS LEGACY AWARD WINNER

FORMER BLOOMINGTON MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBER, American Cancer Society advocate and volunteer – the list of Coral Houle’s community activities is long. Houle was presented with the Bloomington Community Foundation’s Eighth Annual Legacy Award in November for her leadership and many contributions to the community.

Bloomington Community Foundation Chair Gil Williams said volunteers such as Houle have made our city, state and nation a much better place to live.

“Coral has contributed countless hours, giving to others in so many ways,” Williams said. “Some may think of Coral only because of her political involvement and service, but that has been just a small part of what she has done for the betterment of the community and for others.”

The Legacy Award is presented annually to an outstanding Bloomington citizen who demonstrates community leadership, exhibits high ethical standards, illustrates ongoing support for community projects and addresses community challenges. The Bloomington Community Foundation is dedicated to building a healthy, strong community. If you would like to become a donor, call 952-888-8077.



Volunteers, such as Houle, have made our city, state and nation a better place to live.

DEDICATED TO CRIME PREVENTION DETECTIVE HONORED WITH LIFETIME LEGACY AWARD



Detective James Caauwe, right, with Bloomington Police Sergeant Todd Lewis.

BLOOMINGTON POLICE DETECTIVE JAMES Caauwe was honored with the 2005 Minnesota Crime Prevention Association’s Rosie Griep Lifetime Legacy Award, the highest honor given to a crime prevention professional in the State of Minnesota.

Caauwe has devoted more than seven years to crime prevention efforts that have helped make Bloomington a safe community. Because of Caauwe’s work, Bloomington is a leader in crime prevention initiatives that include the successful Crime-Free Multi-Housing, Operation ID and Bike Safety programs and a lighting ordinance that promotes crime prevention through environmental design.

This is the second consecutive year that Bloomington was honored with the Rosie Griep Lifetime Legacy Award. Crime Prevention Specialist Niki Pierson was presented with the award in 2004.



EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING CITY RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARDS

VIDEOS PRODUCED BY THE CITY’S Communications Division received top honors at the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Government Programming Awards in Washington, DC. Bloomington was awarded first and second place in the Public Affairs category.

“A New Use for Old Town Hall” took first-place honors. “Great story! Great job telling and showing it,” the judges said.

Second place was awarded to “Bloomington Today: Year in Review 2004.” Judges called the program “a very informative vehicle for the citizenry. It helps to maintain a positive avenue for news about city projects.”

NATOA’s Government Programming Awards recognize excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. This year, NATOA received more than 1,000 entries from across the country. For more information, call Communications Administrator Diann Kirby at 952-563-8818.